

Appl. No. 10/644,352
Amdt. Dated July 21, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2004

REMARKS

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azuma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,971,800) in view of Cobaugh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,349,237). .

Claim 1, as amended, defines an electrical connector comprising an insulative housing and a power contact. Said insulative housing comprises a receiving slot for receiving a daughter PCB and a tower. **Said receiving slot divides the tower into a pair of opposite base portions.** Said power contact comprises a pair of retaining plates respectively retained in the base portions and a connecting arm connecting the retaining plates for supporting the daughter PCB.

Azuma et al. does not disclose the tower has a pair of opposite base portions divided by the receiving slot. Azuma et al. also fails to disclose the power contact has a pair of retaining plates respectively retained in the base portions and a connecting arm connecting the retaining plates for supporting the daughter PCB. In fact, Azuma et al. discloses a guiding protrusion 56 with a slot 57 and a receptacle contact 70 retained in the slot 57. Said receptacle contact 70 includes a pair of contact portions 71 contacting with plug contact 30, a connecting portion 72 combining the contact portions 71 and lead portions 73 extending downwardly from the connecting portion 72. **Neither the protrusion 56 nor the receptacle contact 70 is intended to provide a function of supporting the daughter PCB.**

Cobaugh et al. also fails to disclose the power contact has a pair of retaining

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plates respectively retained in the base portions and a connecting arm connecting the retaining plates for supporting the daughter PCB.

As mentioned above, neither Azuma et al. nor Cobaugh et al. discloses or provides any teaching of an electrical connector comprising a tower with a pair of opposite base portion and a power contact with a pair of retaining plates respectively retained in the base portions and a connecting arm connecting the retaining plates for supporting the daughter PCB. Even if the disclosures of Cobaugh et al. are applied to Azuma et al., the subject matters as defined in amended Claim 1 of the present invention can not be obtained. In view of the absence of any clear teachings of the feature of amended Claim 1 in those references, applicants believe amended Claim 1 is patentable over Azuma et al. in view of Cobaugh et al.

Therefore, Claims 2-4 are also believed to be patentable since they depend from Claim 1 directly or indirectly.

Regarding Claim 5, the power contact comprises a mating arm for electrically connecting with the daughter PCB. Examiner recited that Azuma et al. doesn't show a mating arm adapted for electrically connecting with the daughter PCB. And as clearly described in Column 2, line 57-62 and Column 3, line 7-10 of Cobaugh et al., Cobaugh defines a spring member 74 providing retention in and good electrical contact with the wall of the plated-through holes in a mother board 12. Applicants believe that the spring members 74 do not engage with the daughter board 14, and the Examiner's interpretation could not be accepted.

Therefore, Claim 5 is believed to be patentable and Claims 6-9 are also

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believed to be patentable since they depend from amended Claim 5.

Claim 10, as amended, defines an electrical connector assembly comprises an insulative housing defining an elongated central slot, two rows of signal contacts located by two sides of the central slot, a tower located around one end of said housing and a plurality of power contacts located in the tower. Said central slot extends into the tower. Each of said power contacts including a shielding plate with a pair of mating arms located by said two sides of the central slot. The assembly further has **a daughter board received in the central slot to engage the signal contacts and mating arms of the power contacts.**

Examiner recited that Azuma et al. doesn't show the power contact including a pair of mating arms located by the two sides of the central slot and a daughter board is received in the central slot to engage and mating arms of the power contacts. As discussed above, Cobaugh defines the spring member 74 providing retention in and good electrical contact with the wall of the plated-through holes in the mother board 12 and fails to disclose spring members engaging with the daughter board 14. The combination of Azuma and Cobaugh could not obtain the present invention as defined in Claim 10.

On the other hand, claim 10 defines **EACH** of the power contacts including a shielding plate with a pair of mating arms located by the two sides of the central slot. Differently, in Cobaugh et al. EACH of the power contacts (26) has only one spring arm set (74) located by only one side, rather than two, of the central slot (52). Moreover, the Examiner defines the first plane on the contact of Azuma, and the second plane on the contact of Cobaugh et al. It is really difficult for

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Applicant to understand how these two type contacts could be combined to meet the defined basic structure of the contact of the instant application, and needless to say how the first plane will be offset from the second plane along the longitudinal direction.

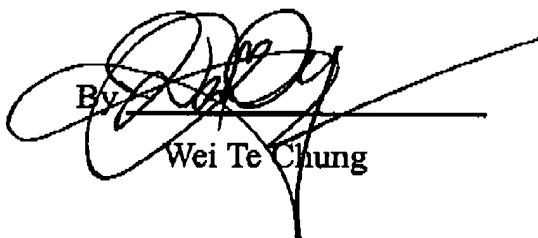
Based upon the aforementioned structural differences and unobviousness issues, applicants believe Claim 10 is patentable over Azuma et al. in view of Cobaugh et al.

Claims 11-15 are also believed to be patentable since they depend from amended Claim 10.

In view of the above claim remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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